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University. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1878, and long served on its Rumford Committee.

The last years of his life were passed in a house that he built for himself on Garden Street, Cambridge. Mr. Leavitt had worked so hard that he never learned to play; and although fondly cared for by his family, to whom he was devoted, and notwithstanding his interest in civic affairs, it is to be feared that time hung heavily on his hands, when he felt that his health demanded his retirement from business.

In 1867 he married Anne Elizabeth Pettit of Philadelphia who died in 1889. They had five children, the survivors being Mrs. Walter Wesselhoeft, Mrs. Paul Van Daell, and Miss Margaret A. Leavitt.

G. R. AGASSIZ.

PERCIVAL LOWELL (1855–1916)

Fellow in Class I, Section 1, 1892.

On both his maternal and paternal sides Percival Lowell came of stock prominent in the development of New England. The cities of Lowell and Lawrence were named for his ancestors. His father, Augustus Lowell, was a Vice President of the American Academy, his mother Katharine Lawrence was the daughter of a former Minister to Great Britian.

Lowell was born in Boston on March 13th, 1855, and fitted for college at "Noble's" school. He took honors in mathematics at Harvard and graduated *cum laude* in 1876. The elder Pierce spoke of him as one of the two most brilliant mathematicians whom he had seen at Harvard.

After leaving college he entered business in Boston. Unlike most devotees of pure science he possessed a marked gift for business matters, and became a force in the business world, where he occupied various positions of responsibility and trust.

From 1883 to 1893 he devoted his life chiefly to literature and travel. Much of this time was spent in the far East, chiefly in Japan, where for some years he made his headquarters in a charming native house in Tokio. He was appointed foreign secretary of the Special Mission from Korea to the United States, and conducted its travels through this country. On their return to Korea he remained for some time as the guest of the government. The result of this experience was a volume entitled "Chosön — The Land of the Morning Calm." The work is full of imagination and charm and infused with the light touch and true literary gift which never deserted him, and was as carefully fostered in his scientific work as elsewhere. His writings during this decade include the "Soul of the Far East," which Janet, the French psychologist, has cited as showing a remarkable insight into the Oriental mind; also a treatise on some hitherto little known aspects of Shintoism; and "Noto," a delightful account of his travels in an out-of-the-way corner of Japan.

He had always taken a keen interest in Schiaparelli's work on Mars. In the early nineties that distinguished astronomer's eyesight had so far failed that it was evident his observing days were over. Then Lowell determined to take up Schiaparelli's work where the latter had left it.

Before establishing an observatory, with characteristic thoroughness, he searched diligently for the best available spot — his investigations including sites in America, France, Algiers, the Mexican Plateau, and a station in the Andes.

One of the results of these investigations was to show that the "seeing" on an elevated plateau is much better than on a mountain top. While no place has been found better than the site chosen at Flagstaff, Arizona, it seems probable that even better results would have been obtained could the Observatory have been set back a mile or two from the edge of the table land on which it stands.

The Observatory founded in 1894 was intended chiefly for a study of the planets, especially Mars. But the investigations at the Observatory have been by no means confined to this field, much valuable work having been done on the constitution of comets, and the spectra and velocities of nebulae; while many refinements in stellar photography have been perfected there. Here the rotation of Venus and Uramus were both determined by the Doppler effect. Two of Lowell's mathematical investigations are of special interest. His "Memoir on a Trans-Neptunian Planet" gives the results of many years of painstaking labor, by himself and a staff of computors. The analysis of the disturbances produced on the outer planets by this unknown body was conducted by methods of celestial mechanics, differing considerably from those employed by Adams or Leverrier. It has not as yet been possible to verify the results either visually or photographically. A "Memoir on Saturn's Rings" is a most ingenious investigation of the probable internal constitution of the planet, deduced from the relation of the position of the divisions of the rings to the satellites.

His work and theories on Mars are most widely known. His observations on that planet have accumulated an amount of data greatly in excess of the total results of all other observers combined. If the theory, which he deduces from this data, that Mars is inhabited, seems fanciful to many, it should at least be borne in mind that it is deduced from observed facts by logical reasoning. Furthermore, no other satisfactory explanation of the facts have ever been offered. His theory would doubtlessly have made much more headway in the scientific world, had it been less dogmatically presented.

The publications of the Observatory up to the time of Lowell's death include fully 2,100 quarto pages and 2,500 octavo pages. He was besides prolific in more popular works, the chief of which were; "Mars" (1895): "The Solar System" (1903): "Mars and its Canals" (1906): "Mars as the Abode of Life" (1909): "The Evolution of Life" (1909): "The Genesis of the Planets" (1916).

Lowell died suddenly of apoplexy at his Observatory on November 12, 1916, shortly after a most successful lecture tour in the West. He lies, fittingly, close to the dome of his telescope. His entire fortune, with a certain life interest for his wife, was left to maintain the Lowell Observatory as a separate institution. It is thought that its income will eventually be at least twice that of the Harvard Observatory.

G. R. AGASSIZ.